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EXAMINER	
JARRETT, SCOTT L	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/829,899	CLEMENTS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Scott L. Jarrett	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 April 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-33* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-33* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *6/20/2001*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: System for excluding the size of a document from a user's document storage quota.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 10, 12 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities. Appropriate correction is required.

Regarding Claim 10, claim 10 (Line 2) contains a typographical error "...and **the** at least one..." Examiner interpreted claim to mean "... and at least one document contained therein..."

Regarding Claim 12, claim 12 contains several typographical errors

- Line 7 "...and **the** at least one..." Examiner interpreted claim to mean "... and at least one document ..."; and

- Line 8 "...analyzing **the** at least one..." Examiner interpreted claim to mean "...analyzing at least one document ..."

Regarding Claim 14, claim 14 contains a typographical error "... and **the** at least one document stored therein." Examiner interpreted claim to mean "... and at least one document contained therein..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

(1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and

(2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e., the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

Regarding Claims 1-11, Claims 1-11 only recite an abstract idea. The recited method for tracking the allocation of resources within a document storage repository does not apply, involve, or use the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. The claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological art as explained above claims 1-11 are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding Claims 12-19, Claims 12-19 only recite an abstract idea. The recited method for tracking the allocation of resources of at least one container file associated with at least one user does not apply, involve, or use the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. The claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological art as explained above claims 12-19 are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding Claims 20-29, Claims 20-29 only recite an abstract idea. The recited method for tracking a storage total does not apply, involve, or use the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. The claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological art as explained above claims 20-29 are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Software, programming, instructions or code not claimed as embodied in computer-readable media are descriptive material per se and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in a computer. When such descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory in most cases.

Furthermore, software, programming, instructions or code not claimed as being computer executable are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in a computer. In contrast, when a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer and the program, and the computer is capable of executing the program, allowing the program's functionality to be realized, the program will be statutory.

Regarding Claim 33, claim 33 merely recites descriptive material (software) per se. Claim 33 is therefore deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter where there is no indication that the proposed software is recorded on computer-readable medium and/or capable of execution by a computer. Examiner suggests that the applicant incorporate into Claim 33 language that the proposed software is recorded on computer-readable medium and capable of execution by a computer to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serbinis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,584,466 in view of Chujo et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0023156.

Regarding Claims 1, 12, and 31-33 Serbinis et al. teach a method and system for Internet document management that permits users (general users, service providers, etc.) to access a plurality of extendible services including but not limited to document storage, collaborative file sharing, workflow, document delivery and document distribution (Column 2, Lines 45-68; Figure 8).

Serbinis et al. further teach that the Internet document management and services system tracks the utilization of resources, in the form of transactions, for billing purposes and that the accounting/transaction information includes information such as the usage of storage on the server, billable/not-billable transactions, etc. and further that the billing sub-system provides individual/unique pricing plans (storage by size, by value, by count, etc.; Column 3, Lines 1-13 and 25-42; Column 4, Lines 15-39; Column

13, Lines 20-68; Column 14, Lines 1-30 and 60-68; Column 15, Lines 1-38; Figures 2 (Elements 63 and 67), 4 and 7 as shown below).

More specifically, Serbinis et al. teach a method for tracking the utilization (allocation) of resources within a document storage repository comprising (Column 5, Lines 25-68; Column 6, Lines 20-63; Figures 1-8):

- a plurality of users, user accounts and account information including but not limited to billing code, name, userID, password, access rights, document/document groups (authorship) and the like (Column 6, Lines 35-56; Figure 2, Elements 62-63);

- users that are categorized as being document distributors (originators, service providers) or general users (authorized users, document consumers) or both;

- a plurality of information (metadata) related to documents/document groups (electronic files, files, content) including but not limited to originator (author, authorship), status, user/group access rights, document's container (document group), document characteristics (e.g. size, the amount of document storage repository used by the document) and the like (Column 6, Lines 19-35; Column 7, Lines 16-35; Column 11, Lines 20-45; Figure 2, Elements 61-64 and 66-68);

- the ability to exclude (not charge, not bill, not-billable, waive fee, etc.) one or more fees associated with a plurality of transactions including but not limited to the amount of storage repository utilized by the document for a particular user or account (pricing plans, billing, transactions; Column 13, Lines 20-68; Column 14, Lines 1-68; Column 15, Lines 1-38); and

- enables collaborative file sharing wherein users may either get a copy of the document, thereby making the document available for other users and excluding the storage amount associated with the document, which the user may access at any time via a link/pointer to the file, from a users account, (i.e. document storage amount remains associated with the originator/author/document distributor) or checkout the document (document distribution service, document delivery service; Column 9, Lines 50-68; Column 10, Lines 1-68; Column 12, Lines 25-40; Column 18, Lines 22-68).

More specifically Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system wherein documents may be distributed by authors (document distributors, service providers, document delivery, document distribution) to a plurality of users through the utilization of a notification service wherein a link (pointer) to the document (content) is sent to authorized users who may view the document without incurring the cost of storing the document (Column 9, Lines 50-68; Column 10, Lines 1-65).

More specifically Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system wherein a document can be delivered/distributed from a central location (i.e. document distributors storage) to a plurality of general users (authorized users) wherein the document storage amount (size) is associated with the originator/author/document distributor of the document and not the authorized user thereby making it unnecessary to determine if the document should be excluded from the users storage total since the distributed document would inherently not be stored as part of the user's storage. Further Serbinis et al. provide a means by which a plurality of

transactions can be made billable or not billable such that implementing a system wherein viewing, downloading or storing any document is capable of being billed or not billed on an individual or account basis.

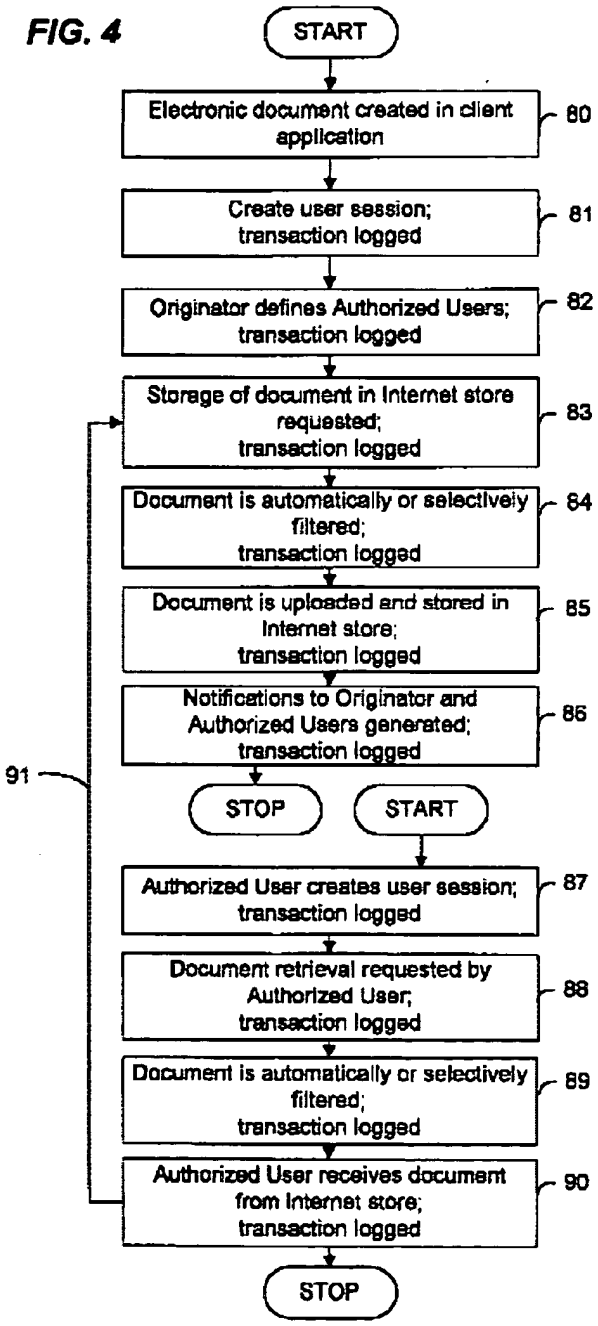

Figure 1: Serbinis et al. , Figure 4

FIG. 7

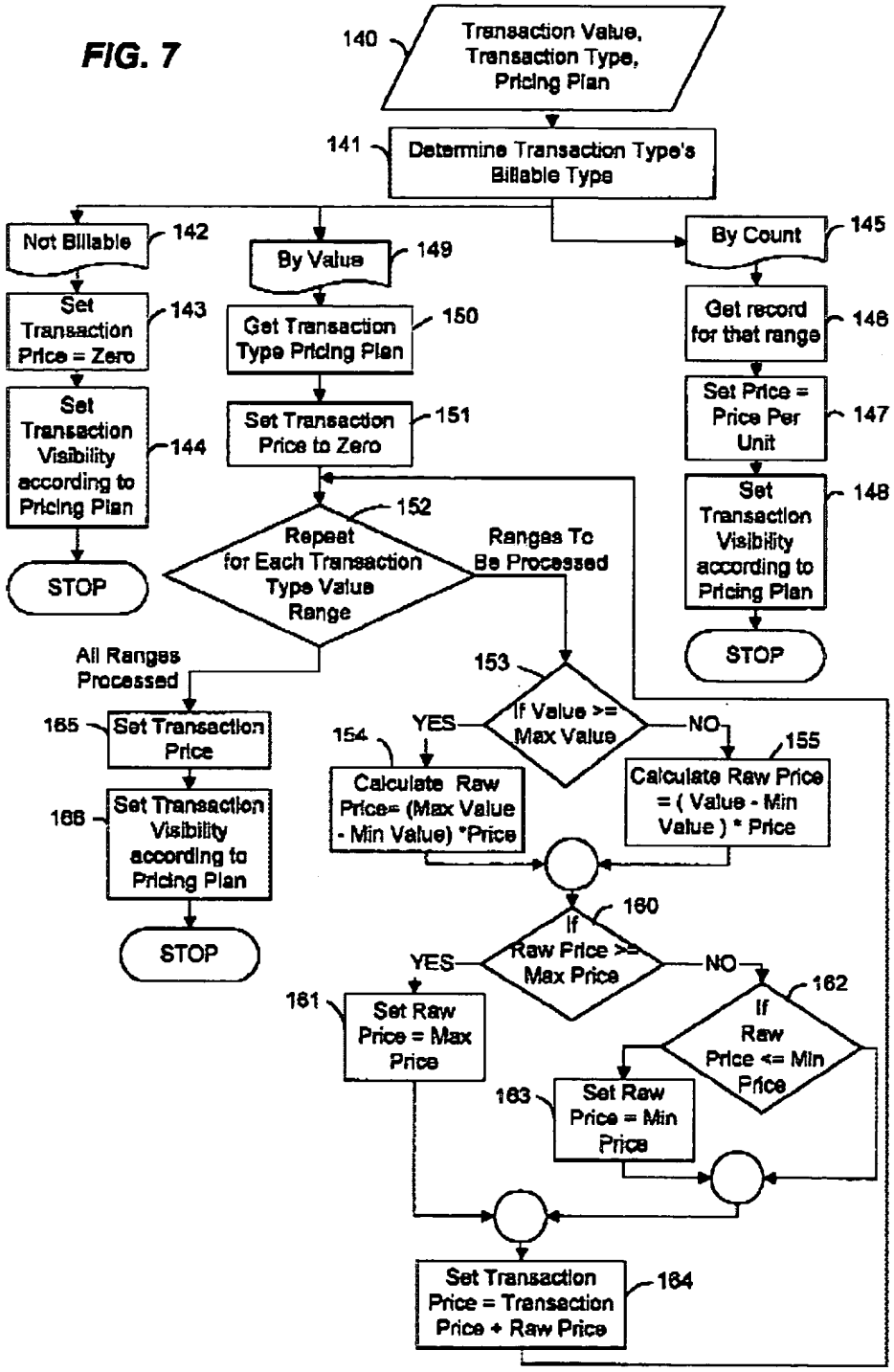

Figure 2: Serbinis et al. , Figure 7

FIG. 2

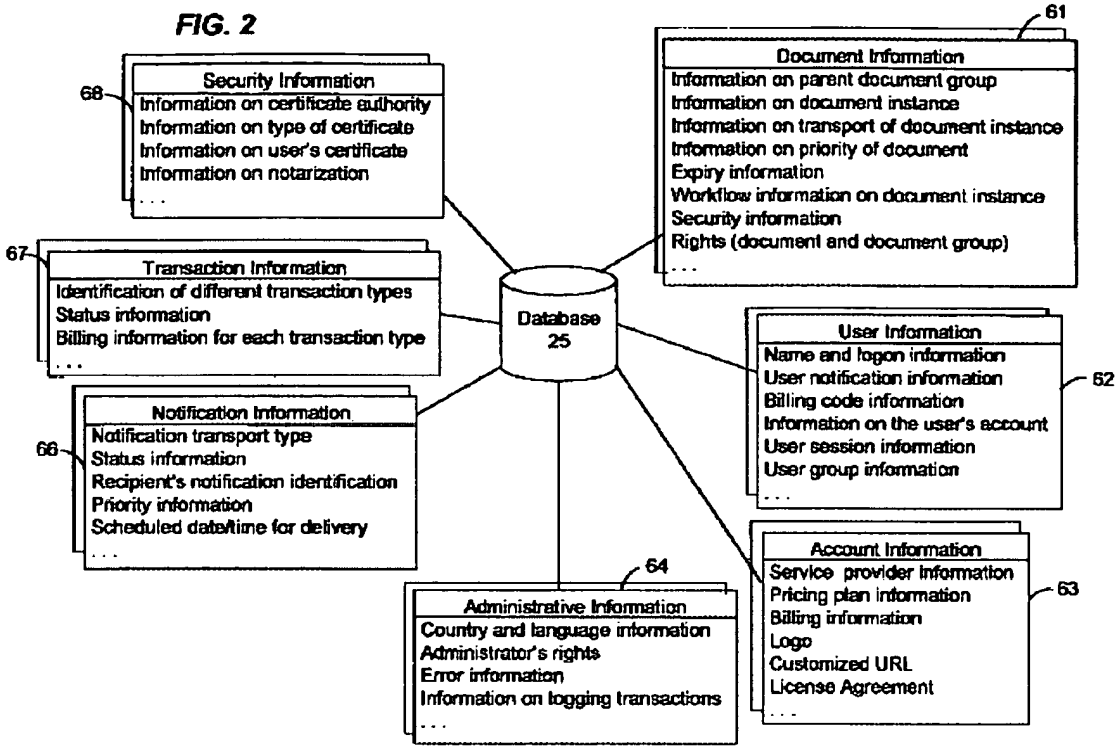

Figure 3: Serbinis et al. , Figure 2

FIG. 3

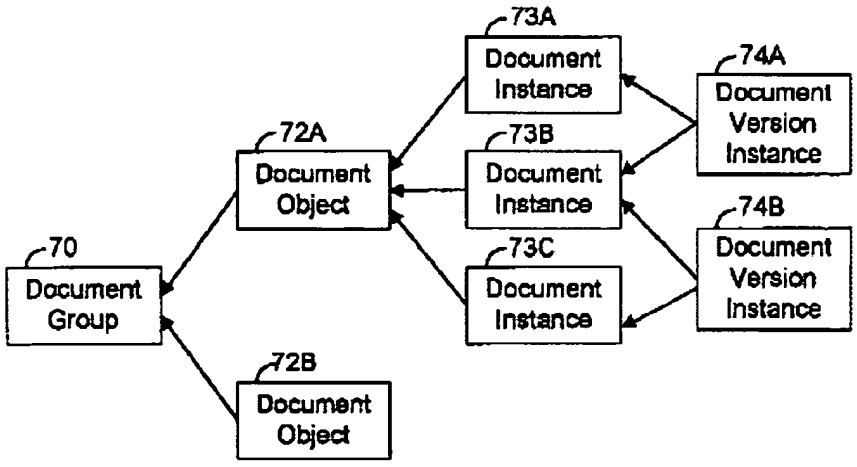

Figure 4: Serbinis et al. , Figure 3

Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach that users of the Internet document management and services system have a storage quota (storage total, resource limit).

Chujo et al. teach a distributed processing system comprising a document storage repository (shared storage/files) wherein users have a storage total (reserve, quota, allocation). Chujo et al. further teach that the document storage repository (distributed processing system, file management, shared storage) comprises a plurality of sub-systems including but not limited to: storage quota management unit, free quota calculation (calculates the amount of free storage quota of a particular user, calculates free space size) unit and reserve space allocation unit (allocates reserve space to a user according to the free storage quota calculated by the free quota unit; Abstract; Paragraphs 0013, 0016-0018, 0030-0038; Figures 1 and 3-4 as shown below).

Chujo et al. teach that the distributed processing system enables users to store unique documents (data objects) in a centralize location (way, shared storage device/repository, shared storage unit) to insure the consistency and integrity of documents as well as the efficiency of the distributed system (i.e. the document would be excluded from the users quota as it is shared/utilized by a plurality of users and stored in a central (single) location and accessed via links/pointers; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

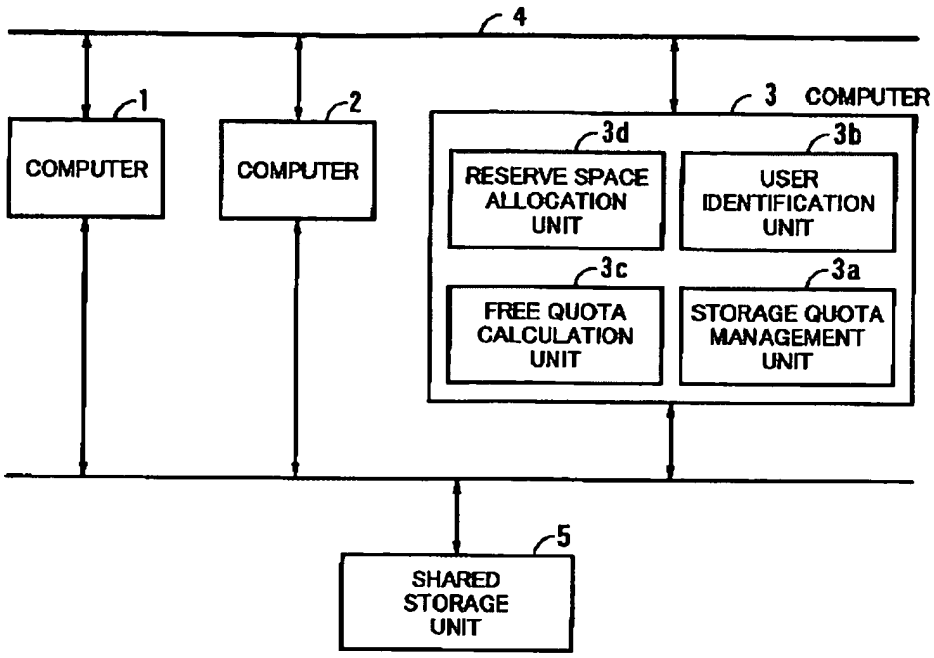

FIG. 1

Figure 5: Chujo et al. , Figure 1

45b

GROUP ID	GROUP QUOTA	USER ID	BLOCKS (MAX)	FILES (MAX)
G0001	55GB	P1001	12000	4000
		P1002	8000	3000
		⋮	⋮	⋮
		P1100	14000	6000
G0002	85GB	P2001	13000	5000
		P2002	8000	3000
		⋮	⋮	⋮
		P2100	10000	3500

FIG. 3

Figure 6: Chujo et al. , Figure 3

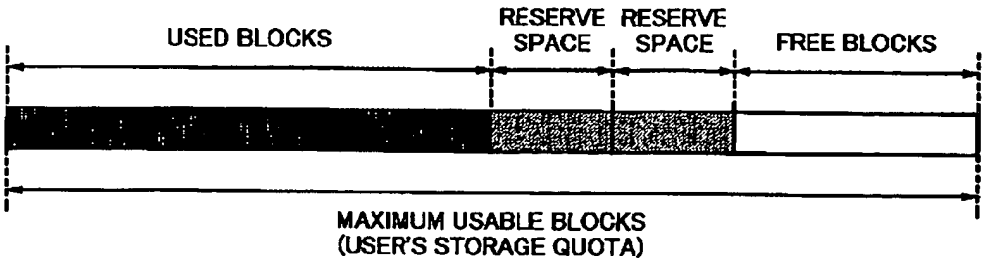

FIG. 4

Figure 7: Chujo et al. , Figure 4

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.). in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the efficient use of resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Regarding Claims 2 and 9 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system wherein the user account comprises at least one container file (document group; Column 6, Lines 19-34; Column 7, Lines 15-60; Column 12, Lines 25-40; Figure 3).

Regarding Claim 3 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system wherein document services/transactions (e.g. document storage,

document delivery, document distribution) comprise a plurality of attributes related to the transaction's cost including but not limited to pricing plan, document size, the number of documents, the value of the document, is the document transaction billable or not billable and the like (Column 13, Lines 20-68; Column 14, Lines 1-68; Column 15, Lines 1-38).

Further Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system wherein documents may be distributed by authors (document distributors, service providers, document delivery, document distribution) to a plurality of users through the utilization of at least a notification service wherein a link (pointer) to the document (content) is sent to authorized users who may view the document without incurring the cost of storing the document as discussed above (Column 9, Lines 50-68; Column 10, Lines 1-65).

Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach that users of the system have a storage quota.

Chujo et al. teach a system and method for efficiently managing the allocation of resources in a document repository wherein users have a storage total (quota, reserve, limit) as discussed above.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et

al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Regarding Claims 4 and 16 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system that utilizes common software, hardware and system components and approaches and further that the system utilizes Boolean values (flags; e.g. billable/not-billable, visible/not-visible, pending; Column 4, Lines 30-68; Column 5, Lines 1-15; Column 13, Lines 25-50; Column 14, Lines 1-15 and 48-58; Column 19, Line 1; Figure 1; Figure 7 as show above). More specifically Serbinis et al. utilizes True/False (yes/no) values to indicate whether a transaction is billable (e.g. identifies if the document storage transaction should be included or excluded from the users account/bill).

Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach that users of the system have a storage quota or subsequently a means for indicating if a document should be included or excluded from the user's storage quota.

Chujo et al. teach a system and method for efficiently managing the allocation of resources in a document repository wherein users have an associated storage total as discussed above.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Further it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., with its billing sub-system and it use of links/pointers to documents in the data repository, makes it unnecessary to exclude the storage total of documents provided to the user by document distributors as these documents are "virtual" documents in the sense that they are merely links/pointers to the "physical" document stored in a data repository and would have by definition not have been stored in the users' accounts.

Regarding Claims 6 and 17 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system comprising a relational database containing a

plurality of related/relational information regarding documents, users, accounts, transactions and the like. More specifically teach that the document attributes include a plurality of links/associations between (pointers) to a plurality of users and account properties/information (Column 6, Lines 20-57; Figure 2 as shown above) and further that users are categorized as being document distributors (originators, service providers) or general users (authorized users, document consumers) or both.

Regarding Claim 7 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system as discussed above.

While Serbinis et al. teach that the teach an Internet document management and services system comprises a plurality of information related to users, documents (document size), transactions and the like would inherently make the system capable of determining a plurality of specific resource usage information Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach the calculation of the total amount of storage utilized by a user.

Chujo et al. teach a system and method for efficiently managing the allocation of resources in a document repository as discussed above. More specifically Chujo et al. teach calculation of the storage total for all users by utilizing the free quota calculation unit that calculates the amount of free storage quota of a particular user and the reserve space allocation unit that allocates reserve space to a user according to the free storage

quota calculated by the free quota unit and (Abstract; Paragraphs 0013, 0016-0018, 0030-0038; Figures 1 and 3-4 as shown above).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Regarding Claims 8, 11 and 19 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system further comprising (Column 3, Lines 1-13 and 25-42; Column 4, Lines 15-39; Column 13, Lines 20-68; Column 14, Lines 1-30 and 60-68; Column 15, Lines 1-38; Figures 2 (Elements 63 and 67), 4 and 7 as shown above):

- identifying a user account for each user (account information; Figure 2); and

- providing each document (document container, document group) stored within each user account with an attribute defines the author of the document as either a document distributor or a general user (document distributor, authorized user, originator); and

- users that are categorized as being document distributors (originators, service providers) or general users (authorized users, document consumers) or both.

While Serbinis et al. teach that the Internet document management and services system comprises a plurality of information related to users, documents (document size), transactions and the like making the system more inherently capable of determining a plurality of resource usage information Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach the calculation of the total amount of storage utilized by a user.

Chujo et al. teach calculating the document distributor total based on substantially all the user accounts and substantially all the documents. More specifically Chujo et al. teach calculation of the storage total for all users by utilizing the free quota calculation unit that calculates the amount of free storage quota of a particular user and the reserve space allocation unit that allocates reserve space to a user according to the free storage quota calculated by the free quota unit and (Abstract; Paragraphs 0013, 0016-0018, 0030-0038; Figures 1 and 3-4 as shown above).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Regarding Claims 10 and 14-15 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system comprising a plurality of information (metadata) related to documents (electronic files, files, content, document groups) including but not limited to originator (author, authorship), status, user/group access rights, document's container (document group), document characteristics (e.g. size, the amount of document storage repository used by the document) and the like (Column 6, Lines 19-35; Column 7, Lines 16-35; Column 11, Lines 20-45; Figure 2, Elements 61-64 and 66-68).

Regarding Claim 13 Serbinis et al. teach an Internet document management and services system comprising a plurality of document (document, document group, container file) attributes including but not limited to document size as discussed above.

Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach that users of the system have a storage total.

Chujo et al. teach a system and method for efficiently managing the allocation of resources in a document repository wherein users have a storage total as discussed above.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Regarding Claims 20-29 and 30 Serbinis et al. teach a method and system for tracking the utilization (allocation) of resources within a document storage repository comprising (Column 5, Lines 25-68; Column 6, Lines 20-63; Figures 1-8):

- a plurality of users, user accounts and account information including but not limited to billing code, name, userID, password, access rights and the like (Column 6, Lines 35-56; Figure 2, Elements 62-63);

- users are categorized as being document distributors (originators, service providers) or general users (authorized users, document consumers) or both; and

- a plurality of information (metadata) related to documents and document containers (document groups, electronic files, files, content) including but not limited to originator (author, authorship), status, user/group access rights, document's container (document group), document characteristics (e.g. size, the amount of document storage repository used by the document) and the like (Column 6, Lines 19-35; Column 7, Lines 16-35; Column 11, Lines 20-45; Figure 2, Elements 61-64 and 66-68).

Serbinis et al. does not expressly teach determining a storage total or subsequently calculating a storage total for a user by summing the storage total for each of the documents/document groups in the users storage space.

Chujo et al. teach a system and method for efficiently managing the allocation of resources in a document repository wherein users have a storage total as discussed above. Further it is inherent in Chujo et al. resource management system that the free space (free blocks), reserve space, used blocks for both the users and the system as a whole are calculated (determined) by at least summing the size of each of the current documents (documents, document groups, containers, folders, etc.) and comparing that sum to the reserve space (quota, limit).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the Internet document management and services system as taught by Serbinis et al., having a shared document repository, would have benefited from providing and managing user storage quotas (storage total, resource limit, reserve space, free blocks, etc.) in view of the teachings of Chujo et al.; the resultant system enabling a plurality of users to quickly access shared storage resources through the use of efficient resource management (Chujo et al.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0004-0005).

Examiner Note

Examiner has cited particular sections, pages, and paragraphs or figures in the references applied to the claims for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specific citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in their entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Camillone et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,421,011, teach a system and method for tracking the utilization/allocation of resources wherein users has a storage quota (limit). More generally Camillone et al. teach a resource access and accounting system and method further comprising the use of resource pools, a plurality of user/group/account information, auditing and access controls. Camillone et al. further teach the use of resource allocation and tracking systems (quotas systems; resource access and accounting controls) as being well established in the art as a means for enabling system administrators to grant resource access and to audit resource usage including but not limited to disk space usage.

- Crawford, Christopher, U.S. Patent No. 5,771,354, teach an Internet based document storage repository (online backup system) system and method comprising security, file sharing, remote file access and a billing sub-system for tracking resource (service) usage.

- Hajmiragha, Mir, U.S. Patent No. 6,289,460, teaches a secure online document storage repository system and method comprising resource allocation tracking (auditing, billing, accounting), multiple user document collaboration, document distribution (publishing, selective publishing), a plurality of document attributes (metadata, parameters, properties, custom attributes, document billing information) and security (user accounts, user registration, access control lists).

- O'Brien et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,351,776, teach a system and method for storing documents in an online repository (Internet hard disk, Xdrive, shared Internet storage resource system) comprising document metadata, user accounts and the separation (bifurcation) of file metadata and the actual files. O'Brien further teaches that the bifurcation of metadata and the actual files enables the system to more quickly respond to user request to search, view, etc the documents stored on the system by simply looking at the metadata thereby not requiring the system to read/load the individual files (documents) for such requests.

- Shim, Jae-Bum, U.S. Patent No. 6,839,743, teaches an online document storage system that consolidates (integrates) "free" storage spaces provided by a plurality of Internet sites (document storage repositories) into a single online document repository (imaginary drive). Shim further teaches that the web drive system comprises

a plurality of sub-systems including but not limited to: user information manager, security manager, free storage space checker (for calculating the free storage space available from the individual Internet storage repositories) and storage space integration manager.

- Nagahara, Atsushi, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0091652, teaches a method and system for tracking and billing the usage of documents (resources) in a content distribution service. Nagahara further teaches that the document distribution comprises the ability to selectively attach "additional information" (e.g. advertisements) to documents (digital content) resulting in the document distributor (advertiser) paying for all or some of the fee associated with the content delivered (original content requested and additional information) and that the amount paid by the document distributor could depend on a plurality of rules including but not limited to the value of the digital content requested, data size or number documents (content) requested. Nagahara further teaches that the additional information may be provided in the form of a link (linkage, pointer) between the digital content and the additional information (i.e. not requiring the user to be responsible/accountable for storing the additional content from the document distributor).

- Oppenheimer et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0014477, teach a method and system for accessing files online (document storage repository) comprising file sharing, email, instant messaging and a plurality of other services in a single system (application, interface). Oppenheimer et al. further teach that the online document storage sub-system (feature) enables multiple users to use/share/acess the same file

stored in a single location through the use of pointers (metadata) thereby reducing the total amount of storage space required/used by the system.

- Murakami et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0172365, teach an online document storage and distribution system and method wherein documents (electronic content) can be shared with a plurality of users and fees are assessed and collected based on rules (patterns) and metadata associated with the documents.

- Morgan, Cynthia, The Buzz, teaches the plurality of online file storage (document storage repository) companies including Click2Send and NetDocuments. Morgan further teaches that Click2Send built a buzz around their service by offering it for free and provide the capability to distribute documents in a one-to-many fashion.

- Dittmeier, Ray, Online storage lockers: The new wave in file management, teaches the plurality of commercially available "free" Internet based document storage repositories (online storage lockers). Dittmeier further teaches that, as is the case for many online businesses, these online storage companies offer the free space in order to attract advertisers and generate revenue when people use their services.

- Merritt, Mark, Space...the final frontier, teaches the plurality of Internet based document storage repositories (online storage, virtual storage) including but not limited to MySpace.com.

- MySpace.com – Home, Demo MySpace and In the Media web pages, teaches a commercially available Internet based document management system wherein users are provided advertiser supported/"free" online storage for documents which are stored in containers (folders).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (703) 306-5679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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